

few of the lowland counties in the extreme southeastern portion of the state, namely, Bollinger, Stoddard, and Butler counties.

In the spring of 1933 the writer visited a region west of Foley, Lincoln Co., north of the Missouri River. This region is of exceptional botanical interest because of the occurrence here of a number of typical Ozarkian plants, ordinarily confined to the Ozark region south of or bordering the Missouri River, which reach their present known northeastern limit in the state.<sup>1</sup> In fact, this area is really a northeastern extension of the Ozarks both botanically and geographically. Sandy Creek, emptying only a few miles away into the Mississippi River, has eroded in this area a long and narrow ravine bordered by bluffs of the St. Peter sandstone of Ordovician age. The valley of the ravine harbours a varied and luxuriant growth of trees and shrubs, and bordering the banks of Sandy Creek occur numerous species common to alluvial soils and low ground, such as *Senecio glabellus*, which is here near its northern limit in the state. In these rich shaded woods along the stream in the floor of the sandstone ravine the writer discovered three plants of *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, of which two bore fertile sporophylls.

The discovery of this species in Lincoln Co. is an extension northward of approximately 150 miles over its previously known distribution in the state.—JULIAN A. STEYERMARK, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

## THE NAME OF THE AMERICAN LOTUS

M. L. FERNALD

NELUMBO **pentapetala** (Walt.), comb. nov. *Nymphaea pentapetala* Walt. Fl. Carol. 155 (1788). *Nymph. Nelumbo* Walt. l. c., not L. (1753). *Nelumbium luteum* Willd. Sp. ii. 1259 (1799). *Nelumbium pentapetalum* (Walt.) Willd. l. c. (1799). *Nelumbo lutea* (Willd.) Pers. Syn. i. 92 (1805). *Cyamus flavicomus* Salisb. in Kon. & Sims, Ann. Bot. ii. 75 (1805). *C. pentapetalus* (Walt.) Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. ii. 398 (1814). *C. luteus* (Willd.) Nutt. Gen. ii. 25 (1818).

Walter thought that he had specimens of two species: one, which he called *Nymphaea Nelumbo* (misidentified with the Old World species), was described

foliis peltatis undique integris, calyce quadrifido, corolla multiplici alba, loculis monospermis;

the other, differing only in number of sepals and petals, his new *Nymphaea pentapetala*, was similarly described

<sup>1</sup> Steyermark, J. A. *Notes on Missouri Plants*. RHODORA 35: 283-291. 1933.

foliis peltatis undique integris, calyce pentaphyllo, corolla magna pentapetala alba, loculis pericarpium monospermis.

The number of sepals varies in our American Lotus, being either 4 or 5; the number of petals (5) would be unusual for our plant. Its petals readily fall, however, and some herbarium-specimens have lost some or all of them. Furthermore, certain sheets of specimens show but few petals (*MacDaniels*, from Lake Erie, with 10; *Lindheimer*, no. 662, from Comanche Spring, with only 6); and, in transferring Walter's *Nymphaea pentapetala* to *Cyamus*, Pursh said: "A specimen seen in the collection of a gentleman in Carolina ascertains the existence of this formerly doubtful plant." Since we know only a single indigenous species of *Nelumbo* in Atlantic North America, it is probable that Walter had an unusual or a somewhat disintegrated flower. The identity of his two descriptions is otherwise apparent, even to "corolla alba" for both. I am told by those more familiar than I with the plant growing that the flowers are white, sometimes passing to a weak whitish yellow, so that Walter's description of the color was as accurate as that implied in Willdenow's name *Nelumbium luteum*. Walter, however, was not always precise in his descriptions of color. Dr. S. F. Blake calls my attention to Walter's original description of his *Smyrniium cordatum*, "floribus albis," for a plant which is the type of *Zizia cordata* (Walt.) DC., a species of the small genus known as "Golden Alexanders" because of the brilliant orange-yellow flowers.

Since, however, Walter's inappropriate name for our Water Lotus antedates by 11 years the more appropriate one of Willdenow and since we are allowed no choice in the matter, but must retain the first, even though inappropriate, the name *Nelumbo pentapetala* must join the long list of often misleading but nomenclaturally correct names.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A long list, in our own flora containing, among others, such cases as *Phyllodoce coerulea* for a shrub with crimson or purple flowers; *Dirca palustris* for a shrub of rich, often dry, upland deciduous woods; *Aster nemoralis* for a characteristic species of open sphagnous bogs, inundated pond-margins and peaty barrens; *Solidago nemoralis* for a plant of sun-baked, open habitats; *Oenothera fruticosa* for a short-lived herb; *Ceanothus ovatus* for a shrub with elliptic-lanceolate leaves; *Gentiana quinquefolia* for one of the leafiest of species; *Lycopus uniflorus* for a plant with several whorls of closely crowded flowers; *Benzoin aestivale* for a shrub flowering in March and April; *Rhus Vernix* for a species which is not the lacquer tree; *Berberis canadensis* and *Ligusticum canadense* for plants unknown within hundreds of miles of southernmost Canada; *Lilaeopsis chinensis*, *Conioselinum chinense* and *Asclepias syriaca* for species endemic in Atlantic North America!

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